



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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December 10, 2003

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT- BOY'S TO MEN,  
COMPTON AND LANCASTER SITES**

We have completed a review of the two homes operated by Boy's to Men Group Home, Compton and Lancaster. Each home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation Department.

Compton is a six-bed facility located in the Second Supervisorial District that provides care for males ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Compton was providing services for six Los Angeles County Probation children.

Lancaster is a six-bed facility located in the Fifth Supervisorial District that provides care for males ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Lancaster was providing services for six Probation children.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review was to verify that the two homes were providing the services outlined in their Program Statements. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues and included an evaluation of each home's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with two children placed in each home at the time of the monitoring visit.

The interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by each facility and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

**Summary of Findings**

Overall, both homes were providing the services outlined in their Program Statements. However, we did note a few areas that need improvement.

**Compton**

Compton needs to make repairs to its facility and improve documentation regarding their Needs and Services Plans.

**Lancaster**

Lancaster needs to improve documentation regarding their Needs and Services Plans.

Attached are detailed reports of the findings for each home.

**Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the agency's management. The agency's management is required to provide the Probation Department with a written corrective action plan within fifteen business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our reviews.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM: PM: CC

Attachment

- c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
- Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
- Public Information Office
- Audit Committee
- David Sanders, Ph.D., Director DCFS
- Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer

**BOY'S TO MEN GROUP HOME  
750 East Pine Street  
Compton, CA 90221  
(323) 774-9459  
License No.: 191601739  
Rate Classification Level: 9**

**I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Compton facility was one of two group homes operated by Boy's to Men. The exterior of the home had faded and chipped paint and the garage door was missing with plywood nailed over the entrance. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the home was neat, clean, and freshly painted. Furnishings and flooring in the living, dining, and common rooms were in good condition. The bedrooms were spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and toys. However, there were some areas that needed improvement.

Mattresses in the downstairs bedrooms number one and two, and the upstairs back bedroom were worn and sunken with springs that could be felt when sitting on them. Also, the closet in bedroom number one had a large hole in the door, and the closet door in bedroom number two was off the sliding track.

There was age-appropriate play equipment in the home including table games, a TV, VCR, basketball hoop, and video games. There was also a computer with a variety of programs, books, and resource materials.

There was a sufficient supply of properly stored frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit.

**Recommendations**

**1. Compton management:**

- a. Paint the exterior of the home.**
- b. Replace the missing garage door.**
- c. Replace all worn mattresses in the residents' bedrooms.**

- d. Repair damaged closet doors in bedrooms number one and two.

## II. PROGRAM SERVICES

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

Both residents met Compton's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were realistic, measurable, and time specific. According to staff, both the children and their placement workers participated in developing and modifying the NSPs. However, documentation did not indicate participation of the residents and their authorized representatives.

At the time of the review, neither resident required a Quarterly Report.

Both residents were receiving individual and group therapy. Anger management, substance abuse treatment and family counseling were also offered. The residents also participated in a level system that rewarded behavior goals on a daily basis.

### **Recommendations**

2. Compton management document the residents' and their authorized representatives' participation in the development and modification of their Needs and Services Plans.

## III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

### **Comments:**

Both residents attended school and their records contained report cards and/or progress reports. The residents reported that they were provided with a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was part of Compton's program. The residents were involved in cleaning their rooms, hygiene care, and general clean up around the house. Residents had the opportunity to participate in independent living classes and were assisted with vocational training. Employment preparation was encouraged after reaching a certain level in the behavior management program. Neither resident was employed and both were able to spend their allowances as they wanted.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Compton followed a monthly activity schedule developed by the staff and residents. The residents were encouraged to participate in activities they desired and had the opportunity to play table games, sports, read, and play video games at various times during the week.

Going to arcades, movies, theme parks, and restaurants were some of the outings provided to the residents.

Transportation was provided to and from activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**There were six residents placed in Compton at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as there were no residents prescribed psychotropic medications.**

**Comments:**

According to management, there were no residents receiving psychotropic medication.

## **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS**

### **Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The residents were presented with the policies, rules, and regulations upon arrival in placement. Both residents felt safe in the home and stated that they were provided with enough “fun” recreational activities. The residents felt that they were treated with respect and indicated that a sufficient number of staff was always in the home when residents were present. Both residents rated the physical facility as “good” to “very good.”

Resident chores included the maintenance of their rooms and common areas which the residents did not feel were too difficult.

Both residents were able to have telephone contact with their probation officers as they wanted and stated that phone calls and visits were permitted with sufficient privacy. Both indicated that they had religious freedom, their health care needs were being met, and that staff was culturally sensitive to each resident’s background and ethnicity.

Both residents stated that they were aware of their right to refuse medication and that there were no inappropriate restrictions for refusing medication.

## **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Compton provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Compton supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance

in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents was of good quality and sufficient quantity.

The residents received at least the required minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system.

Compton provided residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

Both residents had life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**BOY'S TO MEN GROUP HOME**  
**3327 Avenue H-10 East**  
**Lancaster, CA 93535**  
**(661) 946-9708**  
**License No.: 197600537**  
**Rate Classification Level: 9**

**I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Lancaster facility was one of two group homes operated by Boy's to Men. The home had a large yard, was nicely maintained, and blended in with the other neighborhood homes. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the home was neat, clean, and freshly painted. Furnishings in the living, dining, and common rooms were in good condition. The bedrooms were spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and toys.

There was age-appropriate play equipment in the home including table games, a TV, VCR, video games, and a basketball hoop. However, the stand-alone basketball hoop was bent. There was also a computer with a variety of programs, books, and resource materials.

There was a sufficient supply of properly stored frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit.

**Recommendations**

- 1. Lancaster management replace/repair the bent basketball hoop.**

**II. PROGRAM SERVICES**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Both residents met Lancaster's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received an initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the program. The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were realistic, measurable, and time specific.

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*COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES*

According to staff, both the children and their placement workers participated in developing and modifying the NSPs. However, documentation did not indicate participation of the residents and their authorized representatives.

Both residents had current Quarterly Reports that were comprehensive and focused on the goals in their NSPs.

Both residents are receiving individual and group therapy. Anger management, substance abuse treatment and family counseling were also offered. The residents also participated in a level system that rewarded behavior goals on a daily basis.

**Recommendations**

- 2. Lancaster management document the residents' and their authorized representatives' participation in the development and modification of the Needs and Services Plans.**

**III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Both residents attended school and their records contained report cards and/or progress reports. The residents reported that they were provided with a sufficient amount of educational stimulation away from school on a daily basis and that staff was supportive of their academic progress.

Development of daily living skills was part of Lancaster's program. The residents were involved in cleaning their rooms, hygiene care, and general clean up around the house. Residents had the opportunity to participate in independent living classes and were assisted with vocational training. Employment preparation was encouraged after achieving a certain level in the behavior management program. Neither resident was employed and both were able to spend their allowances as they wanted.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES**

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**Comments:**

Lancaster followed a monthly activity schedule developed by the staff and residents. The residents were encouraged to participate in activities that they desired and had the opportunity to play table games, sports, read, and play video games at various times during the week.

Transportation was provided to and from activities.

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**There were six residents placed in Lancaster at the time of the review. A review of case files was not conducted as none of the residents were prescribed psychotropic medication.**

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**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

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The residents were presented with the policies, rules, and regulations upon arrival in placement. Both residents felt safe in the home and stated that they were provided with

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**VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCE**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

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**Comments:**

Lancaster provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Lancaster supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents was of good quality and sufficient quantity.

The residents received at least the required minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency’s behavioral system.

Lancaster provided residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

Both residents had life books.

**Recommendations**

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